

WEST HARTFORD SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Minutes December 16,, 2014

Members present: Ray Guenter, Robert Kennedy, Ellen Phillips, Donna Sterling, and Philip Walker
Members Absent: Linda Hanson, Ruth Kurien, Connie Melo
Staff present: Kathleen Faroni, Susan Huleatt, Gina Marino
Guests: Jim Doran, Noreen Bachteler, Jim Schwarzhaupt, Julianne Roth
Volunteer Secretary: Amy Lynn Silverman

Chairman Philip Walker called the meeting to order at 10:37AM.

The Minutes of November 18, 2014 were approved unanimously.

Chairman's Report

Philip Walker welcomed the guests. He will be circulating to the members his draft of the Commission's annual report that needs to be filed with the Town Council. Phil has concerns about the issues Shari Cantor raised at the last meeting regarding the MDC shutting off of water. Susan Huleatt said that there have not been any developments on this issue. While the number of notices is about a dozen, that is a significant increase over last year. Phil asked the members to think about whom to invite to future meetings. Suggestions included Mayor Scott Slifka, Representatives Beck, Verrengia, Fleischmann, Senator Bye, the Long Term Care Ombudsman, and someone from the Department of Health.

Phil introduced Julianne Roth, owner and CEO of Companions for Living, a non-medical caregiving company that specializes in dementia. The company provides caregivers from 3 hours up to 24/7 and works with families to teach them how to care for a family member who has dementia. The agency is not currently Medicaid approved. She also spoke about a program called Motions in Wellness Systems (a playscape) that promotes balance stability and strength for seniors. Many questions were raised about the system including funding, placement, monitoring, safety, etc.

Transportation

No report

Town Council

No report

Senior Job Bank

Jim Doran reported that Loretta Rivers has been hired as the part-time fundraising coordinator. She will report to Bill Stachelek and will interface with the fundraising committee of the board. Her duties include: the research and preparation of grant request, the maintenance of records, the design and implementation of the annual appeal, the identification and contact of potential contributors such as family foundations, matching gifts, small business, etc. The requests for help in November numbered 100.

Human Services

Susan Huleatt reported that the focus is on the holidays: Adopt a Family, the Children's Party, and gift cards for kids and seniors. The staff is working with Whole Foods where a tree of names of seniors has been set up for people to take a name and donate the requested items. A number of seniors and others have used up their energy allotment and contact is now being made with Operation Fuel. The request there can be for up to \$500.

Senior Center Reports

Gina Marino reported that the TravelFest 2015 presentation was successful. Upcoming programs include A Classical Christmas, a first ever Holiday Party with Fellowship Housing, Latkes and A Legend, and the New Year's Eve Bash. There are Trips to the Boar's Head Tavern at the Williams Inn, and to Radio City. Programs in January: Conversations on Aging, Soup & Stories, Osteotap Demonstration, Lunch and Learn, the Fitness Center Open House on 1/24, and a Super Bowl Party with Ned Skinnon.

Kathleen Faroni reported that the center hosted a flu shot clinic and dental screening with the Bloomfield/West Hartford Health Department. Recent programs included a Victorian Tea and display of wedding dresses, "Write Way Club" with a Celtic harpist, Home for the Holidays luncheon featuring the ESC tap dance class, a trip to the Festival of Lights in Goodwin Park, and Hall High Jazz Band Concert. Breakfast with Benefits featured Way-to-Go CT on transportation options and The Readys on emergency preparedness. There are on-going collections for the food pantry, of eyeglasses and cases, a winter coats. A new program in January will be the Lunch Bunch for seniors with special needs.

New Business

None

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for January 20, 2015, at 10:30am.

The meeting adjourned at 11:58AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Lynn Silverman
Volunteer Secretary